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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,219	02/20/2001	Kaoru Shimamura	1614.1125	3949

21171 7590 02/26/2004

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EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/785,219	Applicant(s) SHIMAMURA, KAORU	
	Examiner Jin-Cheng Wang	Art Unit 2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the Applicant's Request for Reconsideration filed on 12/23/2003. Claims 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 are pending in the application. .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,522,330 (hereinafter Kobayashi); in view of Ooishi U.S. Patent No. 5,802,538 (hereinafter Ooishi).

4. Claim 5:

(a) Kobayashi has taught a character processing system comprising:

A plurality of input terminal equipments (e.g., figure 5, 10 and 11);

A character processing apparatus coupled to the at least one input terminal equipment via a network (e.g., figure 5, 10 and 11);

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Each of said input terminal equipments comprising a requesting section requesting character information, which relates to an external character, with respect to the character processing apparatus (e.g., Figure 5, 10, 11, 16; column 7, and 15-16);

With said character processing apparatus further comprising: An allocating section allocating a code to the requested character information requested by the requesting section (e.g., column 15-16);

A first notifying section notifying the code to the input terminal equipment (e.g., column 13-16);

A creating section creating the requested character information based on the requested character information (e.g., column 15-17; and 25);

A second notifying section notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipments (e.g., column 13-16).

(b) However, Kobayashi does not explicitly disclose the claimed limitation that (1) *“the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments”* through the network.

(c) Ooishi teaches the claimed limitation that *“the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments”* through the network (e.g., Ooishi column 7, 9-10).

(d) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the accessible step of Ooishi in the Kobayashi's apparatus because such a construction would have provided a means for sharing resources and distributing/creating the external character codes through the network.

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(e) Such modification would have been required for sharing resources among multiple platforms because Kobayashi suggests creating characters in one of the input terminal equipments over the network thereby suggesting the obvious modification.

(f) One having the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this because it facilitate sharing of resources among multiple users.

Claim 6:

The claim 6 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment when the code is allocated by the allocating section. However, Kobayashi/Ooishi further discloses the claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment when the code is allocated by the allocating section (e.g., column 15-16).

Claim 7:

The claim 7 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment after the code is allocated by the allocating section. However, Kobayashi further discloses the claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment after the code is allocated by the allocating section (e.g., column 15-16).

Claim 9:

The claim 9 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal

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equipment. However, Kobayashi further discloses the claimed limitation that the second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipment (e.g., column 15-16).

Claims 12, 14:

The claim 12, or 14 is a rephrasing of claim 5 and 5 in a method form. The claims are rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 5.

Claims 18, 20:

The claim 18, or 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 and 5 except additional claimed limitation of a storage medium. However, Kobayashi further discloses the claimed limitation of a storage medium (e.g., column 15-16).

Claim 22:

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of the character information creating terminal equipment including the creating section. However, Kobayashi further discloses the claimed limitation of the character information creating terminal equipment including the creating section (e.g., column 15-16).

5. Claim 1:

(a) Kobayashi has taught a character processing apparatus which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network, comprising:

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A receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from *an arbitrary* one of the input terminal equipments (e.g., Figure 5, 10, 11, 16; column 7, and 15-16);

A code allocating section allocating a code to the requested character information (e.g., column 15-16);

A control section to control creation of character information based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment (e.g., column 9-10).

(b) However, Kobayashi lacks a full disclosure of the claimed limitation that “A setting section setting created character information with respect to the allocated code, *so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*”.

(c) Ooishi teaches the claimed limitation of that “A setting section to set created character information with respect to the allocated code, *so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*” (e.g., Ooishi column 9-10).

(d) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a setting section of Ooishi in the Kobayashi's apparatus because such a construction would have provided a custom character (external character) environment creating means for creating a plurality of custom character environments for the respective custom character groups (Ooishi column 2) and distributing/creating the external character codes through the network (Ooishi column 5). Moreover, Ooishi also teaches the claim

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limitation of code allocating section allocating a code to the requested character information (e.g., Ooishi column 7, lines 15-31; column 9-10) and a control section to control creation of character information based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment (e.g., Ooishi Fig. 17; column 7, lines 15-31; column 9-10).

(e) Such modification would have been required for selecting a custom character under the set environment in a document processing system over a network.

Claim 3:

The claim 3 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments. However, Kobayashi/Ooishi further discloses the claimed limitation of a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments (e.g., through the network; See Kobayashi column 9-10, and 13-16; Ooishi Fig. 17, column 9-10).

Claim 10:

The claim 10 is a rephrasing of claim 1 in a method form. The claims are rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 1.

Claims 16:

The claim 16 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of a storage medium. However, Kobayashi further discloses the claimed limitation of a storage medium (e.g., column 15-16).

Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipment. The claim is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 1.

Claim 24:

The claim 24 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that is identical to claim 23. The claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 23.

Claim 25:

The claim 25 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 10 except additional claimed limitation that is identical to claim 23. The claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 23.

Conclusion

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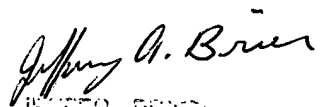
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 395-3900.

jcw


JEFFERY BRER
PRIMARY EXAMINER